

# The Library Assistant:

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## PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

The Librarian as Critic. By J. Middleton Murry	...	...	...	152
NALGO Scale of Salaries	...	...	...	158
Aberystwyth Summer School	...	...	...	159
The Divisions :—				
Liverpool and District	...	...	...	161
Midland	...	...	...	162
Yorkshire	...	...	...	165
Scottish L.A.	...	...	...	166

## ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The November meeting will take place on Wednesday, November 8th, at 7.30 p.m., at the Camberwell Central Library, Peckham Road, S.E.15, through the kindness of the Chief Librarian, Arnold G. Burt, Esq. The paper will be given by Mr. W. T. Creed, of the Fulham Central Library, on "An Ideal for London: Some Suggestions towards the Reorganisation of the London Public Library Service." The Chief Librarian will preside.

The following meeting will be held at the Deptford Central Library, Lewisham High Road, S.E.14, on Wednesday, December 6th, at 7.30 p.m., when an address will be given by our Vice-President, Mr. W. H. Parker, of the Hackney Central Library, on "Our readers and their reading: Some observations and suggestions." Mr. F. J. Peplow, the Borough Librarian, to whom we are indebted for place of meeting, will take the chair.

**Council Vacancy.**—Owing to the resignation of Mr. J. F. Hogg, there is a vacancy on the London side of the Council. The vacancy will be filled at the November General Meeting on 8th November, and nominations must reach the Honorary Secretary, Public Library, Bancroft Road, Mile End, E., not later than Tuesday, 7th November.

## NORTH-EAST DIVISION.

Arrangements are being made to hold the Annual Meeting of the Division in Newcastle-upon-Tyne on Wednesday, November 22nd, 1922. Complete programmes will shortly be sent out to members.

## YORKSHIRE DIVISION.

The closing Meeting of the year will be held on Wednesday, November 8th, at HECKMONDWIKE.

Papers to be read are:—

At 3.15 p.m. "The Relations between Borrowers and Staff." By Mr. Arthur Finney, Deputy City Librarian, York.

At 7 p.m. "Poetry: An Appreciation." By Miss M. V. Walker, of the Huddersfield Public Libraries.

It is hoped that in the afternoon session more attention will be given to the reader's standpoint, rather than to the assistant's; and the paper at the evening session will, the Committee hopes, be the means of arousing a discussion on an only too-rarely considered part of our professional equipment.

W. ROBERTSHAW,  
*Hon. Secretary.*

## EDITORIALS.

**The A.A.L. Library.**—The following simple rules have been drawn up for the guidance of members who use the Association's library, which is housed at the Central Library, Holloway Road, Islington, N.

## ASSOCIATION OF ASSISTANT LIBRARIANS. LIBRARY RULES.

1. The Library is available for all Fellows, Members and Associates.
2. Books are loaned for One Month, but this period may be extended on request, if the volumes are not in demand.
3. Books borrowed are not transferable from one reader to another.
4. The cost of carriage must in all cases be defrayed by the reader on the return of the volume or volumes.

Approved by the Council,

11th October, 1922.

**Next Council Meeting.**—The next meeting of the Council will be held at the National Library for the Blind on Wednesday, 22nd November.

**Bethnal Green's New Library.**—Friday, October 13th, was a proud day for the citizens of Bethnal Green, for on that day the Mayor assisted by members of the Council, Sir John Ross, LL.D., and other members of the Carnegie Trust, in the presence of a representative audience, declared the new Public Library opened to the public for ever.

Though Bethnal Green is the last London Borough but one—and Marylebone's distinction becomes more unenviable than ever now—to establish a Public Library, it has the happy satisfaction of possessing one of the finest equipped, most up-to-date, excellently planned and pleasantly situated institutions of its kind in London.

Friday's ceremony marked the culminating success of a long and persistent fight which began as far back as 1874, and it is greatly to the credit of those determined enthusiasts who have continued the struggle all these years that the Borough now contains a Public Library worthy of their noble efforts.

The new library faces the Bethnal Green Gardens, and is approached from three main roads. The general design is of the Georgian period, and the decorations, furniture, electric light and other fittings have been carefully designed (with no loss of utility) in keeping with the style. The result is singularly charming and effective. It is a red brick and terra-cotta building. The main entrance leads into an oak panelled hall, from which access is obtained to the whole of the public departments. At the end of the hall, facing the main entrance, admittance is gained to the Adult Lending Library, a lofty and pleasant room, 70 ft. by 47 ft., capable of shelving 33,000 volumes. The book stacks are so arranged that complete supervision can be secured from the Staff enclosure. The "Open Access" system is in operation, and the books are arranged on the Brown method of classification. On the right of the hall is situated the Children's Reading Room and Lending Library, 68 ft. by 25 ft., which provides seats for 48 general readers, and for twelve student readers at separate tables. This room has shelving for 7,000 volumes. To the left of the Hall is the Newspaper and Magazine Room, 62 ft. by 25 ft., with accommodation for eighty-five readers. Near the entrance to the Children's Library is the main staircase to the Reference Library, 63 ft. by 25 ft., with seating accommodation for thirty-four students, each at his own table, and shelving for 3,500 volumes. On the first floor is also the Lecture Hall, 54 ft. by 26 ft., with cloak rooms, etc. This hall seats 150 persons, and is provided with operating and re-winding rooms containing a cinematograph and slide lantern for lecture purposes. There are also on the ground floor the Librarian's office, the staff work room, filing room and staff mess room. The building is heated throughout on the low pressure hot water system. The windows at the top of the main staircase are the site of the Borough's memorial to the citizens who fell

in the great war, which will eventually take the form of stained glass windows and a roll of honour. The total cost of the new building will be £36,000. The open-access system operates in the Children's Library, the Reference Library, as well as the Adult Lending Library.

G. P. J.

**A New Juvenile Library.**—Yet another step forward in the matter of properly equipped children's libraries can be recorded this month. On 14th October a junior library was opened at Plumstead, one of the Woolwich libraries, of which Mr. Philip C. Bursill is the chief librarian and curator. It is administered on the open-access system, and is complete with lending library, a reading room containing the best children's periodicals, and a reference section. It is pleasing to note from the press report that there was due recognition of the work, courtesy and efficiency of the staff, recognition that is not always forthcoming at opening ceremonies. The Plumstead library is in charge of the Secretary of our Education Committee, Mr. E. Luke.

**The Paris School.**—We again remind our readers that the arrangements for the contemplated Easter Excursion to Paris next year are well in hand, and that a large number of people have already provisionally registered their names. Early application is therefore desirable, as the party must necessarily be kept within reasonable size limits. At present the cost of the Excursion is estimated to be about £8 10s., but some reduction may be possible owing to the coming reduction in railway fares.

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#### THE LIBRARIAN AS CRITIC.\*

By J. MIDDLETON MURRY.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am not a librarian; but once upon a time I was. I was once the librarian of the sixth form library at school. I had, as I remember, about £10 a year for buying new books. My method was simple. I bought all the books that I wanted, or imagined I wanted, to read myself. There was an uproar: I was criticised as an unworthy holder of a worthy office: my position, like Mr. Lloyd George's, was being undermined.

So I began to reason with my critics. It was true, I admitted—there is a great virtue in admitting what you cannot deny—that I had bought the books I wanted, and that I had not bought the books they desired. I admitted further that I had put up a list for them to write their own suggestions on.

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\* Read at the Inaugural Meeting of the 27th Session, 25th October, 1922.

But that, I said, was merely to see whether they would like good books. And further, the only reason why they did not like the books I had bought was because they did not know them. The moment they looked into them, they would be delighted.

That made them only the angrier. They sniffed at my books; they said they wouldn't touch the rotten things with a barge-pole: they said even more offensive things than that. They remembered forgotten things against me—that I had once lost both keys of the library door for a fortnight, so that nobody could get out the Homer crib on Sunday for Monday's construe. And, finally, I regret to say, by a unanimous vote they deposed me from the office of librarian, and determined to change my rotten books. That was a serious matter. I didn't much want the job, though I rather liked being able to bag the books before anybody else could get at them, but I did very much want the books. Suddenly, I had an inspiration. "Very well," I said, "I'll give you the address of the bookseller: but, you know"—I said as sweetly as I could—"I shouldn't, if I were you, write to him and ask him to change these books for your list. He'll think you such *awful* asses." I saw that I had broken through their Hindenburg line: so I drove home with: "And anyhow, I insist that the thing is recorded in the minute book—your list and mine in full. We'll see what the future says about it."

This prodigious threat settled the matter. They passed my books, and a vote of censure upon me for having chosen them.

It is a very good thing for me that those lists have not been preserved. For I have to confess that their's was just as good as mine, even better. It was certainly more practical. For instance, I remember it contained a duplicate copy of the Homer crib—which is rather a degrading name for Butcher and Lang. I remember also that I had bought the "Golden Bough," and that they wanted a complete Kipling. I remember also that when, a few months later, a sixth form boy at Oxford, having done well in the schools, made a donation (as the practice was) to the library, the Kipling was bought: and that I read the whole of it, and never a line of "The Golden Bough."

That is the history of my experience as a librarian: and you'll think it's not a very creditable history either. Nothing to write home about, as they say: much less to put before an association of librarians by profession.

I agree with every word of your unspoken condemnation.

And yet I cannot help thinking that the story has its points, not, of course, as a story, but as a sort of parable of librarianship.

I am afraid you will never dare to be as autocratic as I was. I could afford to risk my job, paid with 30s. a year, which was, all things considered, a good deal more adequate than, I am sure, your salaries are. Still, you cannot afford to lose them. And again, I was in my way, I suppose, a chief librarian: nothing above me, but a roaring multitude below: you, I take it, as assistant-librarians, live rather between the devil and the deep sea. You can decide who is which. I read in a copy of your last Journal an amusing description of the conference of Librarians (with a capital L) at Cardiff. They were very grave and reverend seigniors: beavers, as they call them nowadays, spiritual beavers. I was delighted to see that your correspondent was thoroughly disrespectful about them: I hope that when he comes to sit by right in their august conclave and another generation of assistants find him rather a joke, he will remember what he felt and said a generation before. But at any rate I gathered from his account that we should do wrong to compare a Chief Librarian to the deep sea, the eager, the restless, the ever-active sea. So I'm afraid only the other rôle is left to him.

I am being unduly flippant. I'm afraid it is the effect of your journal. You print me with various imposing and undistinguished letters after my name. When I saw them I thought: "Have I got to play up to that? Oh Lord!" And I began to read the letters upside down, back to front—after all they mean very little read the ordinary way—and at last, after juggling with them, anagram fashion, they came out J. M. Murry, "A boob": a very expressive Americanism. And the uncomfortable truth of that haunted me all the while I was trying to think what I should say now. It made it utterly impossible for me to be the grave and reverend seignior.

It is better so. I should not bring it off if I were to try. For the truth is that in the world of literature I occupy precisely the same place as you in the world of librarianship. I am between the devil and the deep sea. An editor, believe me, is the very devil: so also, thank heaven, is being one.

You and I, therefore, meet as comrades-in-arms. We take off our jackets together, and talk, as it were, in our shirt-sleeves: we are in the mood to confess to each other: we are in the mood to get the sap from our parable.

And the point of it is (as I see it) that not only are we comrades-in-arms, but fellow-conspirators. We are both engaged in a game of bluff. I bluffed my enemies into believing that they would look awful asses if they did not accept my list; I bluffed myself into believing that I wanted to read Fraser rather than Kipling. Your business—or part of your business—is to bluff the population of England into believing that they want to read better books than they do; and to bluff yourselves into believing that you really know which are the better books.

Now, of course, you know far more about the books you handle than I did about mine. But you do not, you cannot, know enough. You have to take something for granted. What you take for granted, the books of whose goodness you are convinced without having read them—is the tradition.

It seems to me that a library is, first and foremost, a storehouse of the tradition. It contains, as its nucleus and living principle, a collection of what we call "standard books." Nobody has read all of them; Professor Saintsbury has read half; and the rest of us have nibbled at the fringe. A good many of them are shams. But somewhere among them are all the books which have, as it were, made good, which have been handed on from one set of delighted readers to another through the years, the generations, the centuries.

Here, then, is the first of our meeting-places. The critic and the librarian are alike guardians of the tradition: they respect the tradition, even though their actual, first-hand knowledge of it may be small. Life is short, books are long: we do the best we can to be knowledgeable men, even though we fall far short of what we should be. Can we get any nearer to a sense of what the tradition means? I think that Dr. Johnson defined it as well as any man has done. "Nothing can please many and please long," he says in the preface to his Shakespeare, "but the just representation of human nature." We need not concern ourselves with the second part of the sentence: it would carry us too far. It is enough that we should agree that the tradition is composed of books which "please many and please long."

There, in five words, is our dilemma, or our problem. Will the books that please many please long? Can the books that please long, please many? The impossibilists reply to both questions with a peevish "No." What are we, who hate croakers, to reply? I think that the answers we shall make are these. To the first question: "Will the books that please

many, please long?" we shall reply, "Some of them." To the second: "Can the books that please long, please many?" "Yes, they can."

Now, the first of these questions is the critic's sphere: the second the librarian's. You see how closely we are united—the two halves of an oyster with the delectable creature in between. The critic's function is to make some decision as to which of the books which please many will please long: the librarian's is to see to it that the books which have pleased long shall please many.

I regret to say that on the whole it appears to me that the librarian does his part of the common work more conscientiously than the critic: but that, I believe, does not lie in the nature of things, nor in the nature of the men, but in the present condition of our society. Most critics, nowadays, have to conform to the principle that to please many is the thing: while pleasing long can go to blazes. Most librarians are in a position of greater independence.

Still, I must not be a Jeremiah. Plenty of good criticism is being written nowadays in spite of the conditions. The only danger is that some of the best of us critics may retire disgruntled to a cave, and because they are disgusted with what does please many nowadays may decide that books are not meant to give pleasure at all.

And here the good critic and the good librarian meet again, if we can say they meet again who have never parted. They know that books to be good books must please. What critic ever warmed to his work except at the fire of enjoyment? What librarian worthy of his salt ever imagined that his function was other than to minister delight? Pleasure there must be, or literature is simply a burden. And certainly the servant-girl who glides luxuriously in a Rolls Royce with red velvet cushions through some twopenny-halfpenny novel (which, alas, costs 7s. 6d.) is nearer to the kingdom of heaven than the man who staggers through the classics from a sense of duty. Still, they are both pretty far away.

To lead the reader from the coarser to the rarer pleasure, from the false to the true delight—that is our business, gentlemen. Even if we were perfect ourselves, in spirit and knowledge and persuasiveness, it would not be an easy one. But there it is, and we have to do it to the extent of our powers.

We have to do many things besides, so many, indeed, that at times they overshadow and obscure this one. I do not know how it is with you, gentlemen; I do not know enough about

the complicated mechanics of modern librarianship even to hazard a guess: and yet I feel sure that, like us, you spend much of your energy in chafing against the inevitable compromise, and still more in routine occupations of doubtful utility. You probably wonder sometimes, when you hand the fiftieth copy of—well, we will name no names—over the counter, as we do when we see that same author's books leap from success to success, from hundred thousand to hundred thousand, whether the game is really worth the candle.

We have our bad moments: but, of course, we know it is. The flame we tend as best we can is an eternal flame. Eternal, in a human sense, at all events; eternal in the sense that if it were ever to go out life would become an animal and worthless thing. After all, they may call us parasites: libraries may be the first thing that the enlightened hard-heads of business government would like to whittle into nothingness: we live on sufferance: and we are seldom allowed to forget it. Nevertheless, I cannot help believing that we do as fair a hand's turn as our enemies at the work of making life worth living. Even though not two persons in a thousand read the books we recommend: one does. The light is lit again: and it radiates through the whole person of the man in whom it turns.

It seems to me that for us everything depends on our believing in our job. Possibly we may think too highly of it: but that illusion of perspective never did a man harm. The harm begins when we think too lowly of it, when we get the habit of looking upon it merely as a means to a living. It does happen in our profession: we have to be on our guard against the devil of cynicism.

I have said *our* profession: your profession and mine. Without thinking I have been drawn more and more into identifying them. And truly they are one: not merely interdependent, in the sense that you have to trust us and we have to trust you; that we are two meshed cog-wheels in the machine that keeps the tradition alight and alive. Not merely in the sense that we largely depend on you for our audience. The relation is more vital than that. I can perhaps put it best by saying that while we strive to collect the ideal library, to rescue what is best from the past and complete it with what is best in the present; you see to it that our ideal library is put to the use without which it is an idle diversion. The critic, ladies and gentlemen, collects the ideal library: the librarian administers it. We stand or fall, together.

### THE NALGO SALARIES SCALE.

The National Association of Local Government Officers has now adopted a scale of salaries for all branches of the local government service, and, for the information of our readers, we extract the section relating to municipal libraries. The scale is the result of deliberations, lasting over two years, in which the Library Association and the A.A.L. have taken an active part. It has also been considered in detail by the National Joint Council of Technical and Professional Associations, on which both our professional associations are represented. Up to the last, the A.A.L. has endeavoured to obtain an alteration upwards in Grades A, B and C; but as these grades have been adopted for *all* branches of the local government service, it was found to be impossible to gain preferential treatment for our particular branch.

The second part of the scale, which is governed by population and rateable value, applies to chief librarians.

It is important to remember that while the scale as printed below will be the official recommendation to be put forward in all places where library salaries are under consideration, everything will depend upon the local *interpretation* of the scale. The scale lays down definitely only the salaries of chief librarians and deputy librarians, all the rest are subject to the local interpretation.

It is the opinion of the Council of the A.A.L. that in all cases where the scale is submitted to a local authority, the following points should be noted :—

(a) In view of the fact that on the customary library staff there is no grade corresponding to the office boy of other departments, but that on the contrary the junior library assistant is expected to be possessed of knowledge, and capable of work in direct touch with the public never expected from a purely internal assistant similar to the lowest grades of other departments, the grading of the staff of the library department should commence with Grade B.

(b) Members of the library staff below the rank of deputy librarian should be placed tentatively in Grades C to E, according to the size of the system and the importance of their individual work (as known to the chief librarian and the library committee), before the submission of the scale. It is unreasonable, and might be dangerous, to expect a local authority to be able to interpret a scale unless such necessary information is applied in advance.

Grade A	B	C
Age 16 £30	Age 21 £80	£180
17 £40	22 £90	by £15 to £240
18 £50	23 £100	D
19 £60	24 £110	£260 by £25
20 £70	25 £125	to £325
	26 £140	E
	27 £155	£350 by £25 to £500

Population	Rat. Value	Salary
[Whichever may be the higher].		
Under 10,000 or under	50,000	Grade D
" 15,000 "	75,000	—
" 25,000 "	125,000	—
" 35,000 "	175,000	—
" 50,000 "	250,000	Grade E
" 100,000 "	500,000	—
" 150,000 "	750,000	£425
" 200,000 "	1,000,000	£500
" 300,000 "	1,500,000	£550
" 400,000 "	2,000,000	£650
" 500,000 "	2,500,000	£750
" 600,000 "	3,000,000	£850
Over 600,000 over	3,000,000	£1,000 to £1,200

Grade A, B, C, to apply to all below rank of sub-librarian.

Note. Current civil service bonus to be added to all figures in all grades.

Deputy librarians 60 p.c. of chief librarians.

1.—Scale to apply equally to both sexes.

2.—Sub-librarian to include sub-librarian; branch librarian; librarian and assistant-in-charge, chief assistant.

No officer is to be placed in a worse position than he is at present.

Scale of salaries adopted by the professional associations, through the National Association of Local Government Officers.

## A FEW NOTES ON THE SUMMER SCHOOL HELD AT ABERYSTWYTH, JULY 31st TO AUG. 12th, 1922.

BY ARTHUR T. AUSTING, Public Library, Walthamstow.

Travelling from London to Aberystwyth to attend the Summer School for the first time, such questions as, "How shall we get on?" "Shall we enjoy ourselves?" and "Will everybody be of a sociable disposition?" forced themselves into my mind, and I have no doubt that any assistant thinking of attending the school by himself has often given deep thought to such questions. Shortly after arrival we, being all the Library School students, of whom there were nearly fifty, sat down to supper, and before the end of the meal my querulous doubt had been set at rest, for, during the repast, everybody made friends with everybody else. From that time forward, old and young alike were imbued with the spirit of youth, and admirable *esprit de corps* prevailed, which is only

another way of saying that we had a very good time together. The fortnight which followed, was, for many assistants, including myself, their annual vacation, and grave doubts as to the advisability of spending a holiday thus must have assailed many, previous to their experience of any such school. I now hasten to assure any who may be in doubt that under present regulations the students are by no means overworked, that they choose for themselves the courses they desire to take, at least one course being compulsory, and that if they take all the courses provided, they will still have a fair amount of leisure. I have also been informed that in future the social side will be further developed, since it is recognised that it is not the work which is gone through, but the association of kindred spirits which works for the good of our profession. Every student was a "tipster," telling of the praiseworthy methods used in his own library, and storing for future reference all good methods suggested by others. Despite these facts, we did some classwork, and strange to say most of us looked forward to it. Fancy looking forward to work! But it is easily explicable, for any person knowing his profession soon fires others with his own enthusiasm, and, then again, I don't think the majority of us needed much firing. The lectures and demonstrations, which were of about an hour's duration, were held at the University and the National Library of Wales, and a pleasing feature was the amount of time given to seminar work in such subjects as cataloguing and classification, those subjects being lectured upon by Messrs. Quinn and Williams respectively.

Even such able lecturers as we had could not make geniuses of us in a fortnight, and, consequently, the impossible was not attempted. Each lecturer gave us the groundwork of his subject, which will prove a good foundation upon which to commence future studies. For myself, I essayed to study cataloguing, classification and books of reference, attending about two-thirds of all the lectures and demonstrations given, and although I do not profess to be proficient in those subjects, I certainly know more than when I went, partly owing to the fact that the lecturers would leave no difficulty unsolved if informed of its existence. The demonstrations on bookbinding, printing, and rural libraries were admirably conducted, and much valuable information was imparted, which could have been obtained nowhere but at the Summer School. On the Friday preceding our departure an optional examination was held at the University College in all the subjects.

The social side of the visit was well developed, several excursions being made to points of local interest; the scenery thereabouts is gorgeous, and, though not of the same type, vies with that of Devonshire. The excursions were generally organised by Mr. J. McQuiston, and his leadership in this direction was thoroughly appreciated by all, since, having been to Aberystwyth several times previously, he was well acquainted with the local beauty spots. Concerts were also given by the students.

It is to be regretted that there is some talk of the discontinuance of a school at Aberystwyth, owing to the loss entailed to the authorities responsible. Should it be discontinued, library assistants will have only themselves to blame, and this will particularly apply to members of the A.A.L., who should realise the true worth of such a splendid movement. Consequently, if one is held next year, I say, "Attend it," and I shall not be averse to practise what I preach, should it be in any way possible.

#### THE DIVISIONS.

##### LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT DIVISION.

At the Annual Meeting of the Liverpool and District Division held on Friday, October 13, many topics of interest were discussed.

In the course of his address, the retiring chairman, Mr. E. C. Wickens, referred to the demand for the higher education of assistants, and warned his hearers that in the future an even higher standard would be required. There was a tendency to acquire certificates and then to neglect all further study in the subjects represented. The speaker then dealt at length with the question of professional status, and the urgent desirability of energetic action. He held that the Library Association had failed in its duty to the profession: it had failed in the past, through lack of national initiative, to obtain the abolition of the restricted rate, and was apparently unable to realise the necessity for an energetic programme in the present. As a concrete example of the latter, Mr. Wickens drew attention to the question of providing books for children. For many years papers had been read urging a closer co-operation between the education authority and the public library. Why had not the Library Association produced a scheme? The time would come when the Board of Education would thrust a scheme on the Library Association; and the profession would again be humiliated. It seemed as if the Association of Assistant Librarians would be forced to lead; and the matter which called for instant consideration was the manner in which this lead could be effected. Apparently the future of the profession lay in the hands of the assistants' association and not in the hands of the Library Association. In conclusion, the speaker appealed for an unanimous membership: the greater force which the Association had behind it, the greater was the work which could be accomplished.

Mr. R. Cochran (Walton and Fazakerley Branch Library), in complimenting Mr. Wickens on his excellent resumé of the situation, said

that neither Association had made the most of its opportunities. There had been much talk, but little action. Such vital matters as the supply of well-printed and well-bound books for public libraries should have been dealt with years ago. He greatly deplored the present tendency to economise. It was essential that we should advertise our libraries in every possible way, and that could not be done if they were to be rendered inefficient by misplaced economy.

Mr. M. Jackson Wrigley (Liverpool Library, Lyceum) commented on the desirability of keeping the public informed. Readers seldom had any idea of the intricate processes involved even in the ordinary everyday routine work of a library. Only by influencing public opinion could we hope to raise our professional status.

Mr. B. Claussen (Lending Libraries' Dépôt, Liverpool) contended that our association should be re-named and made more representative of the profession. The word "Assistant" should be deleted, as it failed to impress the general public. By convincing the public of the importance of our work we would raise our status financially as well as professionally; and as assistants came perpetually in contact with readers they could do more than their chiefs in moulding public opinion.

Mr. A. H. Edwards (Andrew Carnegie Branch Library, Green Lane, Liverpool), Mr. J. Fletcher (Public Library, Birkenhead), and Mr. J. T. Evans (Reference Library, Liverpool) also took part in the discussion.

After refreshments, a very good musical programme was provided by Miss E. Pilling, Miss E. Wood, Miss M. Wickens and Mr. B. Claussen.

During the early part of the evening the annual report of the past session was adopted. It showed that the membership was 70, an increase of 59 per cent. having been effected during the year. In addition, 9 new members were proposed, so that the Division will commence its new session with nearly 80 members.

The following members were elected to serve on the Divisional Council for the coming session:—Misses E. K. Jones (Reference Library, Liverpool), E. B. Saxton, M.A. (Commercial Library, Liverpool), A. M. Travis, B.A. (Reference Library, Liverpool), D. Yates (Public Library, Birkenhead), and Messrs. F. J. Boardman (Public Library, Wallasey), B. Claussen (Lending Libraries' Dépôt, Liverpool), R. Cochran (Walton and Fazakerley Branch Library, Liverpool), A. H. Edwards (Andrew Carnegie Branch Library, Green Lane, Liverpool), J. T. Evans (Reference Library, Liverpool), B. A. Hopson (Toxteth Branch Library, Liverpool), G. C. Meakin (Public Library, Bootle), W. J. Randall (Law Library, Liverpool), J. A. Stephens (Kirkdale Branch Library, Liverpool), and E. C. Wickens (Reference Library, Liverpool). The Council is empowered to elect officers from among its own numbers, and to form such sub-committees as may be deemed desirable.

J. T. EVANS,  
Hon. Secretary.

#### MIDLAND DIVISION.

...

The Annual Meeting of the Division was held in Birmingham on 27th September, 1922, thirty-two members attending.

Members assembled at 2.30 p.m. and proceeded to the General Post Office. The party was conducted to the office of the Postmaster (J. Scott, Esq., M.B.E.), who extended a warm welcome to the Association and paid tribute to the help he had received at the hands of librarians on many occasions. The party was divided between three guides, who conducted the tour of the offices. The arrangements made for the welcome and comfort of the party were admirable and were highly appreciated, the visit proving one of absorbing interest. Tea was provided at the Y.M.C.A. Café, Dale End.

The evening meeting was held at the Reference Library, in a room placed at our disposal by Walter Powell, Esq., Chief Librarian.

The minutes of the last three meetings were read, confirmed and signed.

The Annual Report and Financial Statement of the Committee were presented and approved.

The Chairman announced the election, without opposition, of the following officers and committee for the ensuing year:—Chairman, Mr. J. Sidwell; Hon. Secretary, Mr. L. Chubb; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. A. R. Williams; Hon. Auditor, Mr. G. L. Burton; Committee, Misses M. Atherton and E. Weston, Messrs. H. M. Cashmore, F. J. Patrick, H. J. Robertson, and H. Woodbine.

Unfortunately, Mr. Sidwell had not found it possible to come over from Coventry, and in his absence the retiring Chairman continued to conduct the meeting.

The Committee reported that the education classes would commence in the first week of October. Students were invited to notify the Hon. Secretary as early as possible of the subjects they desired to study.

On a statement by the Chairman, Miss M. G. Baker kindly volunteered to assist the Hon. Secretary.

The congratulations of the Division were extended to Mrs. Holden (née Miss M. Stephens, Leamington), on her marriage. One member and nine associates were elected to membership of the Association.

The Hon. Secretary submitted a statement on the Summer Schools at Aberystwyth, and after discussion it was

*Resolved*—That the Midland Division recommend the Council of the Association of Assistant Librarians to consider the position of the Summer School at Aberystwyth, with a view to affording greater help to the organisers in the future, particularly in finding the necessary number of students to ensure the success of the school.

Votes of thanks were accorded Mr. J. Scott, M.B.E., the Postmaster of Birmingham, and Mr. Walter Powell, the Chief Librarian, Birmingham, for their contributions to a successful meeting.

#### ANNUAL REPORT, 1921-22.

The Committee of the Midland Division have the pleasure to submit the Report and Accounts for the year ending September 30th, 1922.

*Membership*.—The membership is now 84, showing a net increase during the year of 27.

*Meetings*.—Ordinary meetings have been held at Coventry and Birmingham. The attendance has averaged 34 members. This is the largest average attendance the Division has recorded since its inauguration in 1910. Visitors, in addition, have been present at all meetings.

At Coventry, in November, the Division was received by His Worship the Mayor, and Mr. F. Barlow contributed a thoughtful paper which provoked an excellent discussion. In January, at Birmingham, the "Birmingham Gazette" offices were visited, and during the evening Miss M. Atherton and Mr. G. L. Burton delighted the meeting with excellent literary papers, the former on Francis Thompson and the latter on John Masefield and John Drinkwater. At the March meeting the Branch visited the Birmingham Repertory Theatre, and the success of this meeting is well reflected in the organised visits of a semi-official nature, which have since been paid to performances at this theatre. The Summer Meeting was held at Ghent in June, and those who attended had a great day.

*Educational*.—The classes organised by the Committee met with considerable success. Every application made by a member for assistance was met. The incidental expenses have been borne by the general funds of the Division, and no expense of any kind has been charged to students.

Classes were organised for students in Sections 2, 4, 5 and 6 (i.e., Bibliography, Cataloguing, Library History and Library Routine), and for the Preliminary examination. The total number of students in all classes was 49.

The Committee desire to record their appreciation of the work of the leaders of the classes, Messrs. L. Chubb, D. C. Jones, F. J. Patrick, and H. Woodbine. Their practical efforts and interest in the promotion of professional education are worthy of emulation.

The Committee also wish to place on record the services rendered by Mr. F. W. C. Pepper, Librarian of Winchester, in setting and marking a test paper for students of the Routine Class.

Great encouragement and considerable help has been extended to the Committee by the Birmingham Public Libraries Committee through the keen interest of Mr. Walter Powell, the Chief Librarian. It is a pleasure to record the indebtedness of the Division to the authorities at Birmingham and also to submit the following resolution of the Management Sub-Committee of the Birmingham Public Libraries passed at a meeting held on the 24th May, 1922 :

"That the Management Sub-Committee have heard with much pleasure of the successful educational work undertaken by the Midland Branch of the Library Assistants' Association, and express high appreciation of the self-sacrificing labours of the conductors of the classes (Messrs. Patrick, Woodbine, Chubb, and Jones), in undertaking so much work for the benefit of their younger colleagues. They hope that this useful work will be continued and developed as opportunities occur."

*Rambles.*—The rambles instituted at the last annual meeting have been an unqualified success, and the Committee are indebted to Miss Edith Weston for her able organisation of this activity.

Twelve rambles have been held on Sunday afternoons at intervals of a month or five weeks. A splendid start was made with a visit to Hartlebury at the invitation of Mr. H. M. Cashmore.

*Theatre Parties.*—Informal visits have been organised to witness productions of merit at the Birmingham Theatres. These evenings have been much enjoyed and the numbers attending have ranged from twelve to sixteen.

*Reconstruction.*—The Committee delegated your Chairman to attend a special conference convened in London to formulate recommendations for the General Annual Meeting of the Association. The recommendations adopted secured definite results at the Annual Meeting.

*Obituary.*—It is with deep regret the Committee record the death during the year of a member of the Division, Mr. Ernest J. Packer, Inspector of Lending Libraries in the Birmingham Public Libraries. Although prevented by ill-health from attending, for some time past, the meetings of the Division, Mr. Packer always displayed keen interest in its welfare. The Hon. Secretary conveyed to Mrs. Packer, on behalf of the Division, their deep sympathy.

*Committee.*—The Committee has met on four occasions during the year. It is pleasing to record that there has been a continuous interchange of opinions between the Division and Headquarters during the year. On all questions the Division has kept before it the objects of the Association and has expressed sincere opinions upon all matters with the sole aim of securing the advancement of the profession as a whole.

On behalf of the Committee,

(Signed) F. J. PATRICK, Chairman.

LEONARD CHUBB, Hon. Secretary

## MIDLAND DIVISION.

SESSION 1921-22.

## BALANCE SHEET.

Receipts.	Expenditure.
Ledger Fol. 23 ... £ 28 19 4	Ledger Fol. 24.—Chairman 0 16 3
" " 24.—Secretary 8 18 5½	" " 23.—Treasurer 0 7 11½
" " 23.—,, A.A.L. 17 13 9	" " 23.—,, A.A.L. 17 13 9
	£27 16 5
Balance in hand ... 1 2 11	£28 19 4
£28 19 4	

M. C. HUNT, Hon. Treasurer.  
Sept. 27th, 1922.

## YORKSHIRE DIVISION.

Owing to the holiday period only about thirty members attended the meeting held at Ilkley, on Wednesday, September 27th. We were welcomed in the Reference Room by Mr. Councillor J. R. Feather (Chairman of the Committee), supported by Mr. Councillor J. W. Dixon (Chairman of the Ilkley Council), Mr. N. L. Frazer, M.A. (Chairman of the Book Club Committee, and Headmaster of the Ilkley Grammar School), Mr. H. B. McCall, F.S.A. (Editor of the "Yorkshire Archaeological Journal"), Rev. C. J. Hamer, M.A. (Vicar of Ilkley), and Mr. W. Graham (Librarian and Curator). Mr. Feather said the Library was opened in 1907 by the Rev. Dr. Collyer, the eminent New York divine, formerly a blacksmith in Ilkley. After briefly sketching the activities of the Library he said that it was a pleasure to him to welcome us on the occasion of our first visit to the town. Mr. N. L. Frazer, after some drily humorous references to the work of the Book Club, said he wanted to acknowledge the kindness which users of public libraries received at the hands of librarians and assistants. He congratulated us upon the fact that we were to devote our evening meeting, not to the technical details of our work, but to a consideration of John Galsworthy. To study literature of that high order was to study life at its best. Mr. Dixon, in his expression of good wishes for our proceedings, recalled the protest under which the early meetings of the Public Library Committee were held. Now the Library, from being looked upon as a burden, had become a thing the people could not do without. Mr. Graham said that they had in Ilkley a public which made full use of the Institution; a public quick to appreciate any improvement, and also quick to find fault either with the Committee or the staff, but both these characteristics were necessary for the improvement of any public library.

Mr. J. A. Butterfield (President) returned thanks for the welcome, and spoke highly of the stock of books possessed by the Ilkley Library.

At 3.30 Mr. McCall commenced a tour of the principal historic objects in Ilkley. At the Museum he deplored the type of museum one frequently met with. They are far too miscellaneous; and stuffed swans and fishes in glass cases had no educational value whatever. Museum authorities ought to specialise on exhibits which are definitely local in interest.

Outside the Library the "Yorkshire Observer" photographer took a photograph of the party standing at the entrance to the building.

Mr. McCall then proceeded to describe to us the Parish Church, Saxon Crosses, the old Manor House, and the old Grammar School. At the conclusion a very hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr. McCall, on the motion of Mr. W. Proctor.

Tea was provided by the Public Library Committee, who were graciously thanked by Mr. G. W. Strother, seconded by Miss Hummerston.

At 6.30 p.m. members assembled in the Council Chamber to hear an address on "John Galsworthy, novelist," by Mr. Edward Sydney, of the Leeds Reference Library. He analysed the plots and character drawing of many of Galsworthy's famous novels, dealing especially with the books which make up the "Forsyte saga." Up to the appearance of "The Country House," he said, Galsworthy was experimenting. In his later works his style, whilst quiet and restrained, had no unequal quality to call attention to itself. He had proved that English prose could be unmistakably modern without being ugly or cold. Galsworthy had reduced his words to the minimum essential to effect. It was in the perfection of the separate chapter that he had contributed most largely to the novel. Each chapter was like an act of a play, like a skilful and complete sketch. His characters were usually types, and therefore did not quite become personality. Somehow we never got quite to the springs of conduct. His contribution to English literature was a series of portraits of English character, an exquisite and rare technique, a delightful style, a definite purpose, and a wonderful power of description.

In the discussion which followed, there took part Mr. W. Proctor, the Honorary Secretary, Miss Hummerston, the President, Mr. H. Goulden, and Miss Rhodes.

In replying to the discussion, Mr. Sydney said Galsworthy sought rather to set out the ailments of society; he had no solution to offer, no "balm of Gilead," but he sought to state life as it was. In his novels there was always one character imprisoned by the forms and conventions of society. It was for the reader to make up his or her mind as to the solution of the problem.

A resolution of thanks to Mr. Sydney for his address was moved by Mr. H. Goulden, and seconded by Miss Rhodes.

#### SCOTTISH LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

*Autumn Course of Lectures.*—Those engaged in the Scottish Library service have always laboured under educational disadvantages owing to their remoteness from the centres in which training courses have been established, and it was with the view to, in some measure, removing this handicap, that the Council of the Scottish Library Association arranged a course of lectures and demonstrations on practical library work, to be held in Glasgow during the week ending October 7th.

Although the course was primarily designed to assist students who are preparing for the Professional Examinations, it was found that among the more senior members of the service there were those who were not averse to the attractions of a "refresher" course.

Enrolments reached the gratifying total of 80, and the students, representing 17 separate library systems, were drawn from as far north as Dundee to as far south as Dumfries.

The course was inaugurated by a Reception and Musical Evening in the Ca'doro Restaurant. The President of the Association was in the chair, and an attractive programme of music, etc., was enjoyed, the

students being warmly welcomed and hospitably entertained by Councillor David MacCowan, Convener of the Glasgow Committee on Libraries.

Commencing on Tuesday, the syllabus was carried through as arranged. The lectures, which, by permission of the Committee on Libraries, were held in the Mitchell Library, were fully attended, and the students took full advantage of opportunities provided by each lecturer's offer to answer questions. The Association was exceedingly fortunate in obtaining for the lectures the services of the prominent authorities who dealt with the several sections of the syllabus, and appreciation of this was reflected in the attention each lecturer received, and in the hearty votes of thanks accorded to Messrs. F. Kent, R. D. Macleod, J. Minto, S. A. Pitt and E. A. Savage.

The demonstrations of paper making, printing and bookbinding attracted large attendances, and the facilities provided by Messrs. Edward Collins and Co., Papermakers, Robert Maclehose and Co., Printers, Bookbinders and Publishers, and William Muir and Co., Library Bookbinders, were much appreciated. The students also took full advantage of the opportunities for studying the administrative methods in operation in the Mitchell Library, the Commercial Library and representative district libraries.

At the final lecture the students accorded a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Edgar H. Parsons, Hon. Secretary of the Association, who was responsible for the general arrangements.

On Saturday, a large party enjoyed a visit, per char-a-banc, to the beautiful Aberfoyle and Trossachs district.

With the success of their first endeavour to provide systematic instruction for those engaged in the Scottish library service before them, the Council of the S.L.A. will doubtless approach with confidence the question of future efforts, and it is hoped that succeeding years may see the same gratifying results follow the arrangement of similar courses in other centres in Scotland.

#### NEW MEMBERS.

**Fellow:** RICHARD WRIGHT, M.C., Middlesex County Libraries.

**Members:** F. W. OXBORROW (Patent Office).

**Yorkshire Division:** **Members:** Miss H. BROWN and Miss M. TURNBULL (Leeds); Miss E. DYSON (Bradford); Miss W. K. MATHER (Ilkley). **Associates:** Miss I. BROOK (Leeds); Miss D. PITTS (Bradford).

**Midland Division:** **Members:** C. BIRD, G. E. FLACK and L. OLDACRE, Miss E. LAKE and Miss T. ROBLIN (all of Birmingham).

**Associates:** Misses C. DALLISON, W. EVANS, W. HUGHES, V. INGRAM, H. JONES, MEACHEN, L. C. PARISH, W. PRESTON, and P. VERNON (all of Birmingham).

**Liverpool and District Division.**—Misses Dorothy Rosser, Monica Gee, Olive Chisnall, Florence Critchley, Annie Gilliland, Gertrude Evans, and Winifred Knowles (all of Birkenhead), T. J. Law and Misses Norah Barton and Ethel Stubbs (all of Liverpool).

Subscriptions should be forwarded to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. R. Cooper, Central Library, Lavender Hill, S.W.11. Divisional members should remit to their local treasurers.

## APPOINTMENTS.

- G. F. FOSTER (Kidderminster) to be a senior assistant, Bolton.  
 F. SINGLETON (St. Helens) to be a senior assistant, Bolton.  
 Miss M. R. TAYLOR (diplomate, School of Librarianship) to be a senior assistant, Bolton.
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## BATTERSEA BOROUGH COUNCIL.

## PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

WANTED, a Senior Assistant (male) with at least ten years' experience in a Public Library, and holding three or more certificates of the Library Association.

Commencing salary £175, rising by £15 per annum to £250, with Civil Service bonus in addition. (The commencing salary and bonus now total £285 9s.).

Applications endorsed "Library Assistant," stating age, qualifications and experience, accompanied by copies of three recent testimonials, must reach me by 12 noon Tuesday, 14th November, 1922.

E. AUSTIN,  
Town Clerk.

Town Hall,

Battersea, S.W.11.

17th October, 1922.

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## A.A.L. SERIES.

- No. 1. The Grammar of Classification. By W. C. BERWICK SAYERS, F.L.A. (Hons.), Chief Librarian, Croydon.
- No. 5. Ideals: Old and New. An Address to Young Librarians. By E. WYNDHAM HULME, B.A., Ex-Librarian of the Patent Office Library.
- No. 6. The Library Committee: Its Character and Work. By W. C. BERWICK SAYERS, F.L.A. (Hons.).
- No. 7. First Steps in Library Routine. By WILLIAM BENSON THORNE, F.L.A.
- No. 8. First Steps in Library Cataloguing. By WILLIAM BENSON THORNE, F.L.A.
- No. 9. First Steps in Annotation in Catalogues. By W. C. BERWICK SAYERS, F.L.A. (Hons.).

To be obtained from Wm. B. Thorne, Bromley Library, Brunswick, Poplar, E.14. Cost, 6d., plus the postage (one penny each, for single copies should accompany all orders, two or more in accordance with postal rates).

N.B.—Nos. 2, 3 and 4 are out of print.